AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a caricatured image, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving an input image to be caricatured;

identifying plural feature areas on the input image, each said feature area encompassing a predetermined individually recognizable component of the input image; and

independently applying respectively associated caricaturing transformations to the image components located within the identified respectively associated feature areas in the input image so as to generate a caricatured image comprising a composite of the transformed components located in said feature areas, each transformed feature area including an independently transformed version of its respectively corresponding component.

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2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the caricaturing transformations comprise at least one of a scaling transformation and/or a translation transformation.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the applying step further comprises[[,]]:

for a point [[in the]] within an input image, determining in which of the identified feature areas the point lies; and

calculating the position which the point should take within [[the]] a corresponding caricatured image feature area as a function of [[the]] characteristics of the determined feature area within the input image feature area, or of the characteristics of a respectively corresponding feature area representing the same feature within another image.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, and further comprising:

storing a reference image having predefined feature areas, each said feature area of the reference image also encompassing a predetermined individually recognizable component of the reference image;

wherein the identifying step further identifies feature areas on the input image or on the other image corresponding to the predefined feature areas on the reference image,

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all such corresponding feature areas representing the same individually recognizable image component; and

wherein said characteristics comprise at least one or more ratios ratio of (a) the dimensions of the determined feature area within the input image, or of the respectively corresponding feature area within the other image, to (b) the respectively corresponding feature area in the reference image.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, and further comprising:

determining a caricature level parameter defining the amount of caricaturing to be applied to the input image in dependence on the intended size of the caricature image to be generated; and

inputting said determined caricature level parameter to the transformation processes, thereby applying the caricaturing transformations in dependence on the determined caricature level.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the input image comprises an image of a subject human face, the identified feature areas each containing a particular human facial feature as said image component encompassed therein.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a computer

program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when executed by a computer

system, it/they enable the computer system [[to]] operates according to claim 1.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A caricature generation system, comprising:

an image input means for receiving an input image to be caricatured; and

processing means arranged in use to:

i) identify plural feature areas on the input image, each said feature area

encompassing a predetermined individually recognizable component of the input image;

and

ii) independently apply respectively associated caricaturing

transformations to the image components found in each of at least two of the identified

feature areas in the input image so as to generate a caricatured image comprising the

independently transformed image components in the respectively associated feature

areas.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein the caricaturing

transformations comprise at least one of a scaling transformation and/or a translation

transformation.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the processing

means is further arranged in use to:

for a point [[in the]] within an input image, determine in which of the identified

feature areas the point [[lies ;]] lies; and

calculate the position which the point should take within [[the]] a corresponding

caricatured image feature area as a function of [[the]] characteristics of the determined

feature area, or of the characteristics of a respectively corresponding feature area within

another image.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, and further

comprising:

storage means arranged in use to store a reference image and data defining pre-

defined feature areas of the reference image, each said feature area of the reference image

also encompassing a predetermined individually recognizable component of the reference

image;

the processing means being further arranged in use to identify feature areas on the

input image <u>respectively</u> corresponding to the predefined feature areas on the reference

image;

wherein said characteristics comprise <u>at least</u> one ~~or more ratios~~ <u>ratio</u> of <u>(a)</u> the

dimensions of the determined feature area within the input image, or of the corresponding

feature area within the other image, to <u>(b)</u> the corresponding feature area in the reference

image.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the processing

means is further arranged in use to:

i) determine a caricature level <u>parameter</u> defining the amount of caricaturing to be

applied to the input image in dependence on the intended size of the caricature image to

be generated; and

ii) <u>input said determined caricature level parameter to the transformation</u>

<u>processes, thereby</u> apply<u>ing</u> the caricaturing transformations <u>in</u> dependence on the

determined caricature level.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the input

image comprises an image of a ~~subject~~ <u>human</u> face, the identified feature areas each

containing a particular <u>human</u> facial feature <u>as said image component encompassed</u>

<u>therein</u>.